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LETTER DATED 3 AUGUST 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith two letters dated 1 August 1995 from H.E. Mr. Slobodan Milosevic, President of the Republic of Serbia, addressed to Mr. A. Izetbegovic and General R. Mladic, respectively.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

95-23088 (E) 030895 040895

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Annex I

Today, several hundred of your soldiers crossed over to the territory of Serbia to seek refuge from the ravages of war. This event has prompted me to write this letter to you.

Your soldiers have been received here not as enemies but as human beings, as neighbours who had been forced against their will into the maelstrom of war.

You know full well that we in Yugoslavia have offered succour to hundreds of thousands of refugees, among whom several tens of thousands were your countrymen, and that they have all benefited from the same treatment and the same solicitude.

I am quite certain that a vast majority of Muslims in Bosnia, like those who have sought refuge over here, want peace and I am likewise just as certain that a vast majority of Serbs in those regions are also desirous of peace.

A few weeks ago, we watched tens of thousands of Muslim refugees, most of them old men, women and children, fleeing Srebrenica and Zepa in the hope of finding refuge in Tuzla and central Bosnia and, a few days ago, the Serbian refugees - also women, children and the elderly from Glamoc and Grahovo, seeking refuge in Drvar or Banja Luka.

Everyone must be wondering how often these images will be repeated, how long the suffering of the people in Bosnia and Herzegovina will have to go on before sufficient courage and strength are found to put an end to the war. More courage and strength are needed for the decision to conclude peace than to start a war.

I beg you to take this decision in the interest of your own people and of all the peoples living in what was formerly Yugoslavia, just as I am begging General Ratko Mladić and the leadership of the Republika Srpska to stop the fighting and immediately conclude a cessation of hostilities with the representatives of your Army.

Peace must come. It is better that it should come earlier than that numberless people on both sides should lose their lives and suffer the ravages of war, than after the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina have mutually annihilated each other.

The cessation of hostilities may provide an opportunity for the peace process to resume and, perhaps, for the war at long last to end.

Ever since the beginning of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian crisis, I have been a believer in one single formula: a settlement that will equally protect the interests of all three nations - Muslim, Serbs and Croats.

I firmly believe that such a solution is possible and just and that it can be arrived at on the basis of the peace plan proposed by the international

community. I am prepared to do everything for this settlement to come about through joint efforts as soon as possible.

I, therefore, beg you to conclude a truce and enable all those who want peace to join forces and achieve it by political means.

Annex II

I am addressing you and the General Staff of the Army of the Republika Srpska, and through you the leadership of the Republika Srpska, at a moment when the absurdity of the civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina has become patent and when only a few weeks of warfare have resulted in enormous casualties and tens of thousands of refugees from both sides have been swept into the maelstrom of war, involving dangers of an unprecedented escalation of fighting and vast human and material losses for all those living in these areas.

Several hundred soldiers of the Muslim army have today crossed over into the territory of Serbia in order to seek refuge from the fighting. They confirm our strong conviction that the overwhelming majority of Muslims in Bosnia want peace, just as do the overwhelming majority of Serbs. It is high time to start acting in accordance with the will and interests of the citizens living in Bosnia and Herzegovina, who irrespective of their national affiliations have the same interest: to live in peace. It is time to make a resolute step to stop the war and turn the course of events in the direction of peace.

As you are aware, it is my firm conviction that a stable peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina can be secured not by military means but only through a political settlement that will equally safeguard the interests of all three nations - Muslims, Serbs and Croats.

I wholeheartedly believe such a settlement to be possible on the basis of the peace plan offered by the international community, and I shall do everything in my power to contribute to the achievement of peace on this basis. I, therefore, beg you, just as I am doing in my letter addressed to Mr. A. Izetbegovic, that, at this hour of great suffering of civilians on both sides, you may find the strength and courage to conclude a cessation of hostilities with the Muslim army, in order to create conditions and scope for all those who want peace, to help to reverse the crisis from the battlefield to the negotiating process and to achieve a final peace.